

a comparison step of comparing said preparation time with said update time.

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of this application.

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13 have been elected for examination on the merits. Of the elected claims, Claims 1, 12, and 13 are independent.

Claims 1, 12, and 13 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A data processing apparatus comprising:
detection means for detecting whether an illegal process has been performed for input
digital contents on the basis of a result obtained by performing a predetermined operation for at
least a part of said digital contents; and
processing means for, when said detection means detects that the illegal process has been
performed, performing a predetermined process for said digital contents,
wherein the result is a result indicating whether a digital watermark is correctly
embedded to the digital contents, and wherein when the digital watermark is not correctly
embedded it is judged that an illegal process has been performed on the digital contents.

12. (Amended) A data processing method comprising:
detection step for detecting whether an illegal process has been performed for input
digital contents on the basis of a result obtained by performing a predetermined operation for at
least a part of the digital contents; and
a processing step of, when it is detected at said detection step that the illegal process has
been performed, performing a predetermined process for said digital contents,
wherein the result is a result indicating whether a digital watermark is correctly
embedded to the digital contents, and wherein when the digital watermark is not correctly
embedded it is judged that an illegal process has been performed on the digital contents.

13. (Amended) A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored, said program comprising:

a detection step of detecting whether an illegal process has been performed for input digital contents on the basis of result obtained by performing a predetermined operation for at least a part of said digital contents; and

a processing step of, when it is detected at said detection step that the illegal process has been performed, performing a predetermined process for said digital contents,

wherein the result is a result indicating whether a digital watermark is correctly embedded to the digital contents, and wherein when the digital watermark is not correctly embedded it is judged that an illegal process has been performed on the digital contents.